

THINGS TO DO

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The Sippy Cups. Noon and 3 p.m. Sunday. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. \$10-\$15. 650-903-6000 or www.mvcpa.com. Tyler Hsieh opens the noon show, Andy Z. opens the 3 p.m. show.

THEATER

"Victorian Villains? A Play Inspired by True Events." 12:30 and 3 p.m. Saturday. History Museum, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City. Free. www.historysmc.org

"Pete 'n' Keely." Presented by Palo Alto Players. 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Sundays, through Oct. 4. \$30. Lucie Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Tickets: 650-329-0891 or www.paplayers.org

"Tell It Slant." By Sharmon J. Hilfinger and Joan McMillen. Through Sunday. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$15-\$30. Pear Avenue Theatre, 1220 Pear Ave., Unit K, Mountain View. 650-254-1148

"The Full Monty." Broadway By the Bay. Through Oct. 4. 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays (no show Oct. 1); 2 p.m. Sundays and this Saturday. San Mateo Performing Arts Center, 600 N. Delaware Ave., San Mateo. \$20-\$48. Box Office, 851 Burlway Road, Suite 300, Burlingame, 650-579-5565 or www.broadwaybythebay.org.

"As You Like It." By Shakespeare. San Jose Repertory Theatre. 8 p.m. today, 3 and 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. Through Sunday. San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose. \$35-\$64. 408-367-7255, www.sjrep.com, Rep Box Office, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose.

"Oklahoma!" Hillbarn Theatre. 8 p.m. today, Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sunday. Through Sunday. Hillbarn Theatre, 1285 E. Hillsdale Blvd., Foster City. \$17-\$34. 650-349-6411 or www.hillbarntheatre.org.

"Treasure Island." Bus Barn Stage Company, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; 7 p.m. Sunday; 3 p.m. Sept. 20, 27; 7:30 p.m. Sept. 30; through Oct. 3. \$15-\$30. 650-941-0551 or busbarn.org

"American Idiot." Music by Green Day. 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays; 7 p.m. Wednesdays; 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays. Through Nov. 11. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley. \$16-\$86. 510-647-2949, berkeleyrep.org or 888-427-8849.

ON SALE NOW

23rd Annual Bridge School Benefit Concerts. Neil Young, No Doubt, Jimmy Buffett (Saturday only), Chris Martin, Adam Sandler (Sunday only), Sheryl Crow, Fleet Foxes, Monsters of Folk, Wolfmother, Gavin Rossdale. 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24; 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25. Shoreline Amphitheatre, One Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View. \$39.50-\$150 plus service charges. General admission four-pack, \$99. Livenation.com

Sippy Cups runneth over

BY PAUL FREEMAN
For The Daily News

For tweens, the ultimate concert-going experience might be Hannah Montana. For toddlers, it's The Sippy Cups.

During two afternoon shows at Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday, The Sippy Cups will feature songs from their latest CD, "The Time Machine." Among the album's catchy tunes are "My Loose Tooth," "One Day Soon" and "Super Guy Saves The Dad."

Sippy Cups keyboardist/vocalist Alison Faith Levy of San Francisco told The Daily News, "We noticed that there was a theme running through a lot of the new songs we were bringing in, and it was the growing process. When we started, our kids were like 3 years old. Now they're like 8, 9, 10 years old. So I came up with the idea of the time machine being ourselves and our bodies as they're changing and moving into the future."

Levy grew up listening to such classic children's albums as Marlo Thomas' "Free To Be You and Me" and Carole King's "Really Rosie."

"We think it's time to bring back the craft of writing a really great song and giving it some kind of concept that kids can understand."

Levy has been in bands for years. "When I was pregnant, all my friends were asking, 'Oh, are you going to start playing kids' music now?' I was like, 'No way!' But my son and I started going to Music Together classes."

The teacher was Paul Godwin, who was thinking of putting together a rock band for kids. "At the time, I'd been taking a break, but that sounded like fun," Levy said.

In the beginning, The Sippy Cups (www.thesippycups.com) covered classic rock tunes. Then they began incorporating original material. "We all became very invested in it. It became a beautiful, creative collaboration," Levy said.

Levy, who continues to make "grown-up" Americana music in the band McCabe and Mrs. Miller with Camper Van Beethoven cofounder Victor Krummenacher, told us the primary goal of The Sippy Cups is sheer entertainment. Their extravaganzas include such merriment as confetti cannons, giant balloons, juggling and an aerialist.

"I want everybody to just have a crazy good, psychedelic time and go home thrilled. We try to create as much pandemonium as we can," she said with a laugh. "It's very cathartic for everybody."



Other members of the band feel that since we do have this platform, we should put forth things that we believe in and teach a little bit. But we try to keep it fun and light and not too preachy. We get some environmental messages across, because it's really important to all of us.

"What we're actually trying to teach overall is just that kids and parents can enjoy something together. There's so much out there that's just for kids, that the parents roll their eyes and go, 'I can't listen to this one more time.' Our biggest goal is that the whole family is singing along, enjoying it equally."

Redwood City's Andy Zamenes, better known as Andy Z (www.andyz.com), opens the second Sippy Cups show in Mountain View, and he'll have families singing along, as well.

"I keep the kids engaged by taking them on imaginary adventures to Andyland, where we meet different characters. I get the kids up and moving and dancing," said Zamenes, who earned a music degree from San Francisco State.

He worked in the computer industry, but when the dot.com bust hit, Zamenes decided to focus on his indie rock music. In 2002, he was asked to fill

in for an ailing preschool music teacher.

"I just had an immediate rapport with the kids and it's blossomed from there. Everything just clicked.

"I love kids' personalities. I love the fact that they're open and open to using their imaginations. It makes it so much more fun, when your audience is so much more entertaining to you," Zamenes said with a laugh. "It was a good fit for me."

He still hopes to record more alt-rock, but doesn't miss performing at bars. "It's a lot tougher playing at 2 a.m. at the Paradise Lounge for 10 people. It's so much more fun playing a day show for kids outdoors, where everybody's dancing and jumping around," said Zamenes, who'll hold a release party for his DVD, "Sing and Dance with Andy Z," at San Jose's Santana Row on Oct. 17.

"I write in contemporary styles, styles the parents don't mind listening to, and that I don't mind playing a thousand times a year. I don't pontificate or get really deep into things with the kids. But I don't sing or write down to kids. They love having the opportunity to hear and dance to different types of music."

"I really have a drive to do this. I enjoy seeing how kids react to what I do. The response has been so overwhelmingly positive."

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FULL MONTY

From page 1

emotionally when they lose their jobs and sense of identity. In large part, it's about couples learning to communicate.

Other themes include divorce, suicide, single parenting, and physical and psychological self-image. The unemployment theme rings deep, and clearly resonated opening night with the San Mateo audience.

Director George Maguire has put together a strong and fast-paced Peninsula production, typical of Broadway by the Bay. Robyn Tribuzi's choreography is smooth, clever, and wonderfully funny. There is much good acting, singing and dancing.

Light-footed and light-spirited Noel Anthony is a charismatic Jerry, lead unemployed steelworker, and the force behind the stripper plan. Anthony hits his lines and marks quickly, keeping the show moving at an exciting pace.

Stephen Baumann, who has a very nice butt, gets the ladies hot as professional male stripper Keno, in the show's opening scenes.

Sarah Aili, noteworthy comedic singer and dancer, something like a blond Carol Burnett, is hilarious in "Life with Harold," her Latin-tinged ode to the rich plant manager she's married, who has secretly lost his job and is now spiraling into debt.

Michael Cassidy shows off smooth moves as that husband, with a flare for ballroom dancing, who becomes the guy reluctantly willing to choreograph the clumsy steel workers into some stripper dance routines.

After "The Full Monty's" exhilarating first act, it slows down in the second act to breathe and focus emotionally, then loses momentum, wavers and has trouble restarting the wild ride. Some of this is due to the script, which repeats stripper rehearsal and child support sub-stories without offering new information.

Behind "The Full Monty" lies the issue, never resolved, of rising unemployment.

Although the British film was released in 1997, and the Broadway musical opened in 2000, this story of rising unemployment is as big as ever on the Peninsula in 2009.

Sometimes America feels, frighteningly, like a

THEATER REVIEW

WHAT: "The Full Monty"

PRESENTED BY: Broadway by the Bay

UPSHOT: Three stars

WHERE: San Mateo Performing Arts Center, 600 N. Delaware Ave., San Mateo

WHEN: 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays; 2 p.m. Saturday

THROUGH: Oct. 4.

TICKETS: \$5-\$48; 650-579-5565 or broadwaybythebay.org

country sliding towards third-world cheap-labor status. "The Full Monty" is a story about an America moving in that direction. As far as the unemployment question goes, the show offers no answers.

E-mail John Angell Grant at jagplays@yahoo.com.



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